Good morning ladies and gentlemen. I would like to echo Hazel’s warm welcome to this year’s conference here at Oxford.

I am thrilled and privileged to represent you as BADN’s new President. The role carries with it an inherent responsibility which requires not only motivation and commitment to the Association, but to demonstrate professionalism and networking skills to maintain the respect of others for BADN. This I have witnessed during the last year as president-elect whilst observing Hazel in her presidential role. She has continued to advocate the role of the dental nurse across the dental profession and for this I would like to thank you Hazel for the dedicated work that you have carried out on our behalf. It does mean however, that I have a hard act to follow!

As my immediate past role as Education Representative dictated that I sat on the Executive Committee of the Association, I have come to realise and respect the enormous amount of work that continues to take place in the background for which I would also like to give thanks. To Pam, our Chief Executive, who continues to represent the Association in supporting the Executive Committee, across the country whatever the weather or transport situation! To Shirley, our Membership Administrator, who is also responsible for our bookkeeping and who leaves no stone unturned in her accounting techniques, to Val our Membership Admin Assistant who manages the membership database and members’ queries, with a lot of patience I might add, and to Adam our IT and Communications Administrator, who looks after our new all singing all dancing combined database/website computer system and promotes the Association through our media channels. He has also supported Pam in the smooth running of the conference here in Oxford.
Whilst holding the role of Education Representative during the last two years, I have been able to continue with existing and new ideas to underpin the Association’s Education Strategy. I am pleased to announce that one of the projects, around developing a 1:1 Professional Support Network is almost complete. I came to recognise that many of our members contacted HQ with varying questions around personal development or workplace related problems. These queries/questions have been historically distributed amongst the executive committee. Now whilst we feel on the executive committee, that we may be ‘all things knowledgeable to dental nursing’ we simply are not! This 1:1 Professional Support Network is an online platform which will connect members together, who have similar knowledge and skills, or indeed with a member who can advise on new knowledge and skills for professional development. Connections are made via the computer programme which identifies matches depending upon the initial set up via the platform profiling page. We believe it will provide a supportive environment on two levels:

- to allow members to dip in and out of the networking platform on an ad-hoc basis
- or alternatively, if more significant help is required across a longer period, then a mentoring relationship can be created.

There are several mentoring tools related to the support network which we think will be helpful to you through your development. As well as implementing the PDP & CPD booklets and the new Fellowship scheme, liaising with CPD providers for mutual benefit, there are still more ideas in the pipeline which will be continued under the leadership of your new Education Representative, Victoria Keates.
As your incoming President, I am excited about being 80 years old! Next year is the 80th year of the founding of BADN which is a milestone to celebrate. Amongst other things we plan to host a birthday event at the Dentistry Show, so please come along and join us for education, cake and bubbles. We shall be combining next year’s Conference with the Dentistry Show in May, when we shall be responsible for the Dental Nurse Forum and have a BADN lounge area alongside our stand. We are also planning an afternoon tea for BADN members on the Saturday afternoon at the NEC Hilton.

I am also looking forwards to continuing the work that Hazel has been involved with in championing our role as dental nurses within and external to the profession. We are the largest registrant group and we should enable ourselves to use our professional voices to positively influence our future role within the future dental team. In fact, when you add up all the other DCPs groups together with the number of registered dentists, we are still the largest number of registrants!

GDC April 2019: 58,087 other roles; 59,014 Dental Nurses.

Firstly, key points to keep alive around the discussion table are items related to the ability to recruit and retain dental nurses within the profession. Dental nurses all over the UK are carrying out an amazing job every day, however, I would suggest that this is not always recognised because I am hearing through my network of colleagues, that it is becoming increasingly difficult to recruit and retain dental nurses within the profession. Perhaps you have heard this too? There are still sadly, a number of barriers which potentially hinder our personal development and engagement with the role.
Secondly, as part of this desire for improvement, I intend to meet the Presidents of the other Professional Associations and other dental stakeholders to open conversations around this and to continue to be involved with Health Education England (HEE), Advancing Dental Care programme related to the education and training of the future dental workforce. If you attended conference in 2017, you will recognise John Darby who delivered a presentation to us regarding ‘The Advancing Dental Care Project’ which is reviewing dental education and training for the future workforce. BADN is excited to be part of this review regarding the possibilities of flexible training pathways for DCPs.

Thirdly, I am under no illusion that the next two years will provide a number of challenges and obstacles, however, I am looking forward to embarking on this journey with the Executive Committee and with you, to enhance your experience as a BADN member. Now I realise there are also some non-members in the room today, but I feel confident that we will enjoy each other’s mutual support.

Finally, and most importantly, whilst I have hinted that we still face some barriers related to personal development or indeed maintaining registration, I do think that we are in an exciting period of change and that we should embrace this change together to create exciting opportunities for dental nurses who are following in our footsteps.

I would also like BADN to grow and change in the process too and I therefore would like to thank you all for taking the time to attend conference this year, and for your continued support in my role as President for BADN.

Before we Hear from the Chief Dental Officer, Sara Hurley, I have two presentations to make.

Firstly, the Immediate Past President Badge to Hazel......
Secondly, a 20 year membership badge to Debbie Reed who sadly won’t be here tomorrow for the Closing Ceremony due to a previous engagement

Enjoy your Conference.

Thank you.